

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OFA-01 DLOS-04 TRSE-00 EB-07 CG-00 DOTE-00 /079 W

----- 069370

R 301920Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5429

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7264

E. O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, BL, PE,SCI

SUBJECT: BOLIVIA/CHILE NEGOTIATIONS ON OUTLET TO THE SEA

REF: SANTIAGO 6993

1. WELL-INFORMED, SENIOR MILITARY MEMBER OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO JUFTA (COAJ) OCTOBER 30 TOLD EMBOFF THAT BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO REDUCE ITS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PRESSURE ON GOC TO RESOLVE QUICKLY CORRIDOR TO THE SEA PROBLEM. BOLIVIANS, HE SAID, WERE GOING AGAINST THE SPIRIT OF THE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN CALM. CHILEAN PUBLIC IS WELL INCLINED TOWARD BOLIVIA, AND THERE IS STRONG INCLINATION WITHING GOC TO ACCOMMODATE BOLIVIA. TRANSFER OF ARICA-LA PAZ RAILWAY IS NO PTOVLEM, BUT QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY IS DELICATE MATTER AND IF SERIOUSLY COMTEEMPLATED MUST BE PREPARED CAREFULLY. OFFICE SAID SPECIFICALLY THAT CHILEN POSITION HAS NOT YET BEEN COORDINATED AMONG ARMED FORCES, AND THAT GOC COULD NOT GO FORWARD UNTIL CONSENSUS HAD BEEN REACHED. APPARENTLY FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL REASONS, PRESIDENT BANZER IS PUSHING GOC TOO HARD. THIS KIND OF PRESSURE IS CONTER-PRODUCTIVE, IN THAT IT MAY PUT CHILEAN BACKS UP. IF NEGOTIATION FAILS, BANZER MAY FALL AFD RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WORSEN, TO DISADVANTAGE OF BOTH.

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2. OFFICER ALSO COMMENTED ON DELICACY OF PROBLEM VIS-A-VIS PERU, SINCE PEUR HAS A VETO POWER OVER KIND OF CHILEAN ACTION THAT IS COMTEMPLATED. CHILEAN POLICY MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT TACTICAL POSITION OF BOTH ITS NEIGHBORS, BUT CHANGE OF PERUVIAN PRESIDENTS SHOULD HELP. DEFINITIVE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM WOULD BENEFIT ALL THREE COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: CONVERSATION IS FURTHER INDICATION THAT SOME GOC LEADERS MAY BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING CESSION OF CORRIDOR IN THE NORTH, BUT THAT ARMED FORCES ARE NOT YET UNITED ON POLICY -- PRESUMABLY THE NAVY IS STILL HOLDING OUT.
POPPER

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